



Delaware Early Childhood Council

Meeting in Conjunction with the
Wilmington Early Care and Education Council

Meeting Minutes – November 17, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Delaware State Police Troop 2
Robert Paris Community Room
100 Lagrange Avenue
Newark, DE 19702

Council Attendance: Heidi Beck, Delaware Head Start Association; Cheryl Clendaniel, The Learning Center; Dolan “Dusty” Blakey, Colonial School District; Julie Johnson, Tender Loving Kare; Dr. Renee Kottenhahn, Delaware Academy of Pediatrics; Mary Moor, Prevention and Behavioral Health Services; Mary Kate Mouser, Nemours Health & Prevention Services; Leslie Newman, Children & Families First; Dr. Michelle Shaivitz, Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children; Betty Gail Timm, Office of Child Care Licensing; Debbie Taylor, Child Care Aware of America

Others in Attendance: Merans Aguilar, Christine Anderson, Jacqueline Bensel, Candice Brown, Victoria Clymer, Daphne Evans, Lori Farvell, John Fisher-Klein, Ariel Ford, Diane Frentzel, Melissa Froemming, Carmen Gallagher, Cynthia Gibbs, Caitlin Gleason, Rosanne Griff-Cabelli, Rena Hallam, Belvie Herbert, Kiley Herron, Judy Hutt, Beth Inter, Andria Keating, Kirstan Kelly, Karen Kozlowski, Leah Leader, Kim Lowman, LaTysse Mack, Molly Magarik, Sarah Milner, Kimberly Nelson, Christine Olley, Andrea Prettyman, Paula Puello, Dr. Tanya Robinson, Allison Russell, Dr. Gwendolyn Sanders, Kristy Sheffler, Marcie A. Shahan, Amber Shelton, Nancy Smith, Michelle Spencer, Peggy Stinson, Bernice Thomas, Kelli Thompson, Janet Umble, Sherize Urquhart, Stephanie Wagner, Tammy Wales, Jamie Walko, Mindy Webb, Amelia Wiggins, Whitney Williams. Christy Wright, Steven E. Yeatman, Linda Zankowsky

1. Welcome, Call to Order, Old Business

- Ariel Ford & Dr. Gwendolyn Sanders welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. WECEC-Resource Center New Location

- The mission of the Wilmington Early Care and Education Council (WECEC) professional development resource center is to increase the education success for children birth to 8 in Wilmington by enhancing the quality of early care opportunities.
- The professional development resource center is now at Warner Elementary School, 801 West 18th Street, Room 3-Pre-K Entrance, Wilmington, DE 19802.
- Victoria Mells-Clymer presented on the WECEC professional development resource center and referenced her power point presentation, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/RC-Power-point.pdf>, and the WECEC new resource center brochure, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/New-Resource-Center-Trifold.pdf>.

3. Parents as Teachers

- Whitney Williams presented on the Parents as Teachers Program.
- The Parent as Teachers program has had the privilege of working with WECEC over the past 15 years.
- Parents as Teachers (PAT) provides evidence-based, research-informed home visiting model. This model promotes optimal early development, learning and health of young children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers.
 - Parents as Teachers is currently referenced in Delaware code:
<http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c041/index.shtml>.
- Whitney referenced the parents as teachers 2015-2016 affiliate performance report document, http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/PAT-2015_2015-Affiliate-Performance-Report.pdf

4. Part C Early Intervention

- Nancy Smith presented on Part C Early Intervention, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/DECC-Presentation-11.17.16.pdf>, this presentation gives and overview of birth to three early intervention.

5. WECEC Updates

- Debbie Taylor, Military Childcare Liaison for Delaware presented on WECEC updates.
 - Sherize Urquhart the administrative assistant for WECEC, is currently working on creating a website for WECEC in conjunction with the City of Wilmington.
 - First Book is a nonprofit social enterprise that provides new books, learning materials, and other essentials to children in need.
 - First Book has partnered with Delaware to create the First Book First State Initiative.
 - Debbie Taylor introduced Andrea Tinianow who referenced the Dec. 17, 2016 First Book event flyer documents (English), <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/Free-books-for-educators-Dec-17.pdf>, and (Spanish), <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/LIBROS-GRATIS-dec-17.pdf>.
 - The First Book marketplace, <https://www.firstbook.org/about-first-book/our-approach/marketplace>, is an online bookstore offering eligible community programs and schools children's books with prices 50 to 90 percent below retail.

6. \$tand By Me

- LaTysse Mack, \$tand by Me Coach for New Castle County Head Start, presented on the \$tand by Me program, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/StandByMe-Presentation.pdf>, this presentation gives an overview of the services offered by the \$tand by Program.
- \$tand by Me is a free of charge service that is offered to employees, students and residents of Delaware. \$tand by Me is partnered with the Delaware Office of Financial Empowerment and the United Way of Delaware.
- The goal of \$tand by Me is to increase personal economic security through their financial empowerment service package which includes:
- For additional information on the \$tand By Me program please visit their website at: <http://standbymede.org/>.

7. CCDF Quality Set-Aside Budget Update

- Belvie Herbert presented updates on the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) quality set-aside budget.
 - Spending - the State of Delaware is required to spend 7% of the CCDF budget on quality and \$576,719 has been spent so far.
 - CCDF Workgroups:
 - Resource and referral
 - Expulsion policy

- Market rate
 - Groups are meeting internally to decide how to proceed in moving forward; invitations to future workgroup meetings will be sent out.

8. RAND Report

- Ariel Ford presented on the RAND report and referenced the Delaware Stars validation study key findings and next steps document, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/DE-Stars-RAND-Key-Findings-and-Nxt-Steps.pdf>, this document is a summary of the background, key findings and recommendations of the RAND report.
 - In 2013, the Delaware Office of Early Learning contracted with the RAND Corporation to conduct an independent evaluation of Delaware Stars for Early Success, the state's quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for early learning and care programs.
 - The final report summarizes all findings of the evaluation. The full RAND report can be found: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1426.html.
 - A question was asked about bullet #2 of the RAND findings and next steps document under the key findings section. The key findings section referenced reads: *Children's learning across multiple developmental domains was not consistently higher in more highly rated programs.*
 - Ariel Ford responded that the standards were changing during the time the validation study was being conducted. Increased qualification standards were going into place by the time the study was done.
 - Rena Hallam responded that QRIS is intended to have child level outcomes most consistently at Star 5, and referenced the great number of programs at Star 5.

9. Early Childhood Professional Development Committee

- Ariel Ford & Julie Johnson presented on the Early Childhood Professional Development Committee, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/PD-Council-Presentation-11.2016.pdf>, this presentation gives an overview of the early childhood professional development committee members, their charge and progress.
 - Committee charge: Building from the strengths of the state's present professional development system, the Committee is charged with three responsibilities: developing action-oriented recommendation that will:
 - Bolster the present system to create enhanced responsiveness to current practitioner and program needs and interests.
 - Improve the state's existing professional development systems and structures so they form a platform that supports Delaware's future vision for a statewide professional development system.
 - Identify future oriented professional development components and next steps that are actionable beginning in 2016 and can be completed by 2019.
 - Committee focus: Early learning educators who work with children in group settings serving children from birth to 5 years; early learning administrators who work with children in group settings serving children from birth to 5 years.
 - These include: Teachers, assistant teachers, paraprofessionals, aides, interns, family child care providers, special education teachers, special instructors, itinerant teachers, center directors, head start directors, school principals, curriculum coordinators, early intervention administrators.
 - Committee vision: Delaware's early learning professional development system is data informed, collaborative, accessible, supported with sustained funding and prepares educators and administrators to provide the highest quality early learning experiences for children birth through age five and their families.

- Technical report will be submitted in early 2017 and next steps will be presented after its submission.

10. Updates from the Office of Early Learning (OEL)

- Ariel Ford presented:
 - The Office of Early Learning Executive Director vacancy should be posted within the week. The position posting will be sent out in an e-blast.
 - The Early Childhood Assistance Program (ECAP), request for proposals (RFP) will be posted in Jan. 2017; information will be provided at the next council meeting.
- Christine Anderson presented information on Delaware Readiness Teams. As of November, Delaware Readiness Teams will have a new contractor and no longer be overseen by Delaware Early Childhood Center. Christine Anderson thanked Dr. Tanya Robinson, Daphne Evans and Diane Frentzel for their dedication to the teams.

11. Review and Approval of Minutes

- The September 22, 2016 meeting minutes were approved with the following change:
 - Under “Council Attendance” Heidi Beck’s affiliation should be “Delaware Head Start Association”.

12. Future Meeting Topics, Additional Items and Close

- Mary Kate Mouser gave an update on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - The Council will continue to be represented by Madeleine Bayard
- This will be Mary Kate Mouser’s last council meeting, she is leaving the state of Delaware.
 - Ariel Ford thanked Mary Kate for her service to the Council and to the children of Delaware and presented her with a plaque of recognition.
- Jamie Walko will host a Statewide Inclusion Model focus group after the Jan. 18, 2017 council meeting.
- The date for Advocacy Day has changed to May 10, 2017. The draft flyer can be viewed here: <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/Save-the-Date-Advocacy-Day-2017.pdf>.
- Leslie Newman announced that ACE data will be available at the data release reveal on December 7th at Wilmington University from 9:00AM-11:30AM.
- Debbie Taylor announced that November is the month of the military family and referenced the military family month document, <http://decc.delaware.gov/files/2015/12/Factsheet-MilitaryFamilyMonth.pdf>.
 - Debbie recognized Cheryl Clendaniel at The Learning Center in Milford for providing free tuition on Veterans Day to military families. And, Julie Johnson for supporting the drill weekend childcare program model.
- Kelli Thompson shared the following websites for Nemours data sets:
 - Delaware survey of children’s health (DSCH) – <http://datacenter.nemours.org/>
 - Community health needs assessment (CHNA) – <http://www.nemours.org/about/community-health-needs.html>
- Next meeting is January 18, 2017
 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
 Nemours Health and Prevention Services
 Wells Fargo Tower-8th Floor Conference Room
 2200 Concord Pike
 Wilmington, DE 19803
 Mary Kate Mouser adjourned the meeting at 11:00AM